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ALERT!!



The Aruba Police Force announces to the general public that they have discovered counterfeit 100 Aruban florins bills in circulation.

Spokesperson for the police, Papito Comenencia, advises that there are persons who, when they discover that someone wants to pay with a counterfeit 100 bill they just refuse to accept it. This is not correct. They are giving the criminals the chance to go with the money to someone else and "hit" them.

They must take the money and advise the police immediately. Do not say anything, just go in the back of your establishment, call the police and stall with the client to give the police a few minutes to get to your store. If the person gets annoying, just tell him that the 100 Aruba florin bill is false and that the police is underway.

Rights groups hail new UN vote against executions

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Rights groups yesterday hailed a new UN committee vote against capital punishment, even though the United States again joined China, Saudi Arabia and Iran in opposing the move.

A moratorium resolution was adopted by 107 votes to 38, with 36 abstentions at the UN General Assembly's main

human rights committee late Thursday.

"This third resolution by the UN General Assembly in favor of a moratorium on executions is yet another milestone in the campaign to end premeditated killing by the state," said Jose Luis Diaz, Amnesty International's representative at the United Nations.

China-US spat hobbles G20 push on world economy



Attending members of the G20 group as well as invited guests wave as they pose together for the "family photo" following the plenary sessions at the G20 Summit in Seoul yesterday.

(AFP Photo)

SEOUL, South Korea (AFP) - G20 leaders vowed yesterday to avoid currency manipulation and trade protectionism, but bad blood between China and the United States blocked deeper progress in rebalancing the skewed global economy.

After a stormy two-day summit, the leaders of the world's biggest rich and emerging economies agreed to craft "indicative guidelines" to reorient imbalanced trade between surplus and deficit nations.

Due to Chinese-led resistance to binding trade targets, that was far less ambitious than sought by the United States, which is nursing a hangover from its worst recession since the 1930s.

US President Barack Obama renewed an offensive

on the Chinese yuan, which critics say is kept deliberately cheap to support Chinese exporters at the expense of US jobs.

"It is undervalued and China spends enormous amounts of money intervening in the market to keep it undervalued," Obama told a news conference in Seoul, continuing a jobs-themed Asian tour after a mid-term electoral drubbing.

Obama, Chinese President Hu Jintao and the other G20 leaders warned that "risks remain" to the global economy and said that "uncoordinated policy actions will only lead to worse outcomes for all."

In a statement, they pledged to move "toward more market-determined exchange rate systems" and to refrain from "competitive devaluation of currencies."

They renewed calls for the World Trade Organisation's "Doha round" of talks to be concluded next year, and expressed commitment "to resisting all forms of trade protectionism."

President Hu had pre-

sented his own counter-proposals in Seoul, calling on the debt-burdened United States to adopt "responsible policies" and maintain a stable dollar.

The Chinese leader, who presides over the world's second-largest economy and its largest exporter, demanded global resistance to trade barriers as he painted a bleak picture of the economic outlook.

"The international financial markets are volatile, the fluctuation in the major currencies is large, prices of commodities are high, and there is a clear rise in protectionism," he said.

The G20 statement was only struck after a week of late-night negotiating sessions in Seoul. It risks being seen by markets as toothless, shorn of US proposals to limit trade surpluses and deficits to a specific level.

The G20's chairmanship passed Friday to French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who promised thorough debate on the world economy despite "colossal" challenges.



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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Comatose Sharon moved to family farm

SYCAMORE FARM, Israel (AFP) — Former Israeli premier Ariel Sharon was taken yesterday from the hospital bed where he has lain in a coma for nearly five years, for a trial period at home, a hospital official said.

An AFP photographer saw the intensive care ambulance carrying the ex-premier arrive at his 'Sycamore Farm' home in southern Israel early yesterday.

Shlomo Noy, head of the rehabilitation unit at Sheba Hospital, near Tel Aviv, said that 82-year-old Sharon was expected to return to the hospital on Sunday.

The exercise would be repeated several times to ascertain whether he could be treated at home on a permanent basis.

"It's a gradual process, when a hospital discharges a chronic patient to his home," Noy told public radio.

"It's a structured process, whereby you check that the support and medical environment in which the patient is to be placed permanently is suitable."



Haiti cholera death toll rises to almost 800

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP) — The death toll in Haiti's cholera outbreak rose to 796 yesterday, with 13 people succumbing to the disease in the ravaged capital, the health ministry said.

Another 12,300 people were being treated for the illness across the Caribbean nation, the ministry said in a statement posted on its website giving the toll up to November 10.

Since the first cholera cases were reported in late October, the daily numbers of deaths and patients suffering from the water-borne disease

has relentlessly grown as the illness stalks the quake-hit country.

There are now mounting fears that cholera will take hold in the squalid camps housing some 1.3 million people left homeless by the January quake, which also killed some 250,000 Haitians mainly in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Most of the deaths have so far been recorded in the northern region of Artibonite, where the cholera was first detected, and it is believed to be spreading thanks to the waters of the Artibonite river.

So far only 13 people have died in the area of the teeming capital city, including its largest slum Cite Soleil, and its suburbs. Almost three million people live in and around Port-au-Prince, including more than a million in the unsanitary tent cities which sprung up after the earthquake.

The United Nations yesterday appealed for nearly 164 million dollars in aid to tackle the growing cholera outbreak, and stop the country being "overrun" by the epidemic.

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US Supreme Court keeps gay military ban intact

WASHINGTON — The US Supreme Court yesterday kept intact the ban on gays openly serving in the military as lower courts review the issue.

The high court denied a request from a gay rights group, the Log Cabin Republicans to block enforcement of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy amid reports that a Defense Department panel has found the military would suffer no harm to current war efforts if it lifted the 17-year-old ban.

As a result, the policy will remain in place until at least mid-March, when a lower court is expected to issue a rul-

Dutch mull police training mission for Afghanistan

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) — The Netherlands could send trainers to Afghanistan to help the country's beleaguered police, the government said yesterday, three months after its military deployment there ended.

"A letter announcing that we are going to examine the possibility and the timeliness of a mission is to be sent to the parliament," said Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

"At the moment, there is not yet a question of a mission, we are simply going to examine if a judicious contribution can be made to the training of police in Afghanistan," added foreign ministry spokesman Job Friesz.

A mission to Afghanistan by senior military officers and diplomats to investigate the proposal would visit three Afghan provinces, Friesz added, without giving an exact date.

ing after briefings and hearings.

"The way President Obama's Department of Justice downplays the irreparable harm done to service members by 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is a slap in the face to gay and lesbian Americans who sacrifice to serve our nation," said R.

Clarke Cooper, executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans.

"This failed policy is unconstitutional because it deprives soldiers, sailors, airmen, coast guardsmen and marines the fundamental rights that all Americans hold dear, the exact same rights our armed forces defend with their lives."

The White House is pushing for repeal of the policy in a year-end session of Congress, before Republicans gain control of the House of Representatives when a new Congress convenes in January.

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Improvement has begun last month for the services given the Shipping Department

Ministers Oduber and de Meza together with FDA signed for the financing of the Twinning project.

ORANJESTAD -- Monday in the chamber of the Council of Minister took place the signing between the Ministers Otmar Oduber and Mike de Meza with FDA for the development of the Twinning project for the Shipping Department. This project enclosed collaboration between the Shipping Department of Aruba and the Department of Transport and Public Works of Holland, which will be on different shipping fields, so as introduction/adaptation of laws and training that will be offered to the personnel of this Department. Minister Otmar Oduber declared during this special press conference that this is the first time the Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor manage to get a sum from the FDA for the development of a very important project that was initiated some years ago.

The intention of the Twinning was to upgrade the knowledge that we have here in Aruba to a professional level, higher than the one existing now. To achieve this we are getting cooperation from Holland who has a much higher level. Holland also cooperates with Aruba to adapt some laws and to make some new ones.

In the year of 2008 the first face of the Twinning project was finished, the cooperation between Aruba & Holland regarding the management, planning and organisation of the Shipping Department.

Since the beginning of the year 2010 the importance of this department began to show. In the scope of the Management of the Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, here has been a organisation of this department as to achieve certain goals towards 2011.

That is why Minister Oduber says that it is of great importance to continue with this Twinning project, which could finalize in a 2 year period.

We are talking about a 732 million florins of finance in which the Department of Shipping of Aruba and the Department of Transport & Public Works, Holland reached an understanding that has as goal the improve-

ment for the service given by the Shipping Department.

The initiation is there to revise and adapt 7 laws in full, meanwhile new laws will be introduced between 2011 and 2012.

The principal goals will be for Aruba to have laws and the capacity as to inspect boats and ships. At this moment Aruba has been able to do this only with small boats (till 12 passengers), the rest is done by the country of Curaçao on the basis of a signed protocol.

The intention is to finish in 2011 so that Aruba will be able to take this over completely. Another important aspect is to come with a better control, execution and collect of the activities that for many years has been taken place outside our coast in our water territory. Minister Oduber immediately said that the Shipping Department at these moments are already very concerning for the controlling part as to avoid any sort of spilling in the future or damage of the environment.

The 3rd goal that Minister Oduber draw attention to was the change in the laws that will take place as to the registration of boats in Aruba. At the moments every 6 months a person simply fill in a form that is free of charge, and has no condition bind to it either. As soon as the changes are introduced, it will make everything possible towards the commercial activities as well as the re-creative boats in Aruba to be revised.

One of the conditions that for sure will take part is the drug test for the boat captains, but there will be also a condition as to the amount of life-vests, not only for the boats but also for those making use of it. "With this section we initiated today by virtue of the Twinning project between the Government, FDA and the concerning departments, will make it possible to have a better control, legislation, organisation and administration," Minister Otmar Oduber said.

In the end the Minister thanked his colleague Minister Mike de Meza and the FDA for a job well done.

Kooyman builds 'Mega Store' in Aruba

On November 10, Kooyman had their groundbreaking event of the new Mega Store that will be built in Primavera, Aruba. It was in October that the construction permit was handed out to the Kooyman management team. Mrs. Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar government official for economic affairs in Aruba was guest of the Kooyman Group to officially 'kick off' the construction of what will be a 28 million investment.

"We have searched for a long time for an adequate terrain where we could build our Mega Store," this according the Kooyman CEO, Herbert van der Woude. "We are very happy that DOW gave us the permit to start the construction. Our management team hopes to open the Mega Store in the fourth quarter of 2011. We are talking about an investment of 28 million and we can easily confirm that this is the largest investment in the Kooyman history."

The Mega Store will have an estimate size of 33.000 m², which can easily be compared to 7 soccer fields together. The building itself will be 17.000 m² and will have 172 parking spaces. The new Mega Store in



Aruba will also contain the 'in-door' drive thru which is already very popular in Curaçao. Kooyman Aruba N.V is part of the Kooyman Group since

1965, they have seven stores spread out in 4 markets; Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and St. Maarten. All together Kooyman Group has 400 employees.

Minister Otmar Oduber and Mike Eman Cabinet prevented Aruba from being listed on the black list

ORANJESTAD -- During the press conference to sign the Twinning project for the Shipping Department, Minister Otmar Oduber acknowledged that this department has been put in the forgotten book for many years. Reality though is that there is an amount of important factors here that we cannot pass up.

For example we had a security commission that exists of National Security, Police Force and all the other security aspects that has never been activated and Aruba would have been in a lot of trouble if it was not for the management team and the professionals at the Shipping Department who had began applying all the laws and rules that was necessary.

All this happened because a couple of months ago we had the Coast Guard at Aruba and the concept report did not benefit Aruba at all. When this was composed by the US Coast Guard and sent to the State Department it could have signified that Aruba's doors, wharf and airport would be put on a

black list. Minister Oduber was saying that because of all this men began to act rapidly, where the Council of the Minister already had taken the decision a couple of months ago to install a Inspection and Se

curity office for the airport and wharf, that for years should have been established.

That was how it was prevented that Aruba would have been put on a black list, so Minister Otmar Oduber said.

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Robbery-hit city hides its statues

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands — The eastern Dutch city of Nijmegen is taking 10 statues off the streets after some of its bronzes were stolen and most likely melted down to take advantage of the high price of the metal alloy.

Among the statues to be removed for safe-keeping is "Mariken van Nieumeghen" -- or Mariken from Nijmegen -- which refers to a local character in one of the Netherlands' earliest books, written around the year 1500.

The city plans to protect the statues by implanting a GPS chip or may replace them with copies made from cheaper materials.



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Pizza and More in the Main Street introduces "The Pizza Party"



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Calzone

Pizza and More, situated at in the Caya Betico Croes 63, is now offering pizza lovers a new way to enjoy pizza. For birthdays, parties, important events, business meetings or just the desire to enjoy a pizza, Pizza and More offers you "The Pizza Party"

Starting from Afls. 45 you can enjoy a huge pizza cut into 72, 36, or 18 pieces. It is also ideal as snack for the Christmas season or for Carnival; children — big and small — LOVE pizza.

They also offer personal pizzas (8"), classic pizzas (12") and the big pizzas (24"). All their pizzas are light, freshly baked with fresh natural ingredients and contain no fat at all.

No desire for pizza? The Italian Calzone (Italian pastechi), hotdog wrapped in pizza dough, and soups and salads await you. And do not forget, they offer free tastings to clients who want to try out their products.

For the vegetarians there also something, a real pizza feast: Zucchini and fresh tomato pizza, pepper pizza and potato pizza.

Or try their vegetarian combos: A veggie soup with

Focaccia bread and a piece of veggie pizza for just Afls. 9, or a salad and piece of pizza with Focaccia bread for just Afls. 11,50

Also on the menu: chicken, tuna, Greek or Mediterranean salads, all ac-

panied with Focaccia bread.

Pizza and More is a real Italian pizzeria and is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except Sundays, when they are closed.

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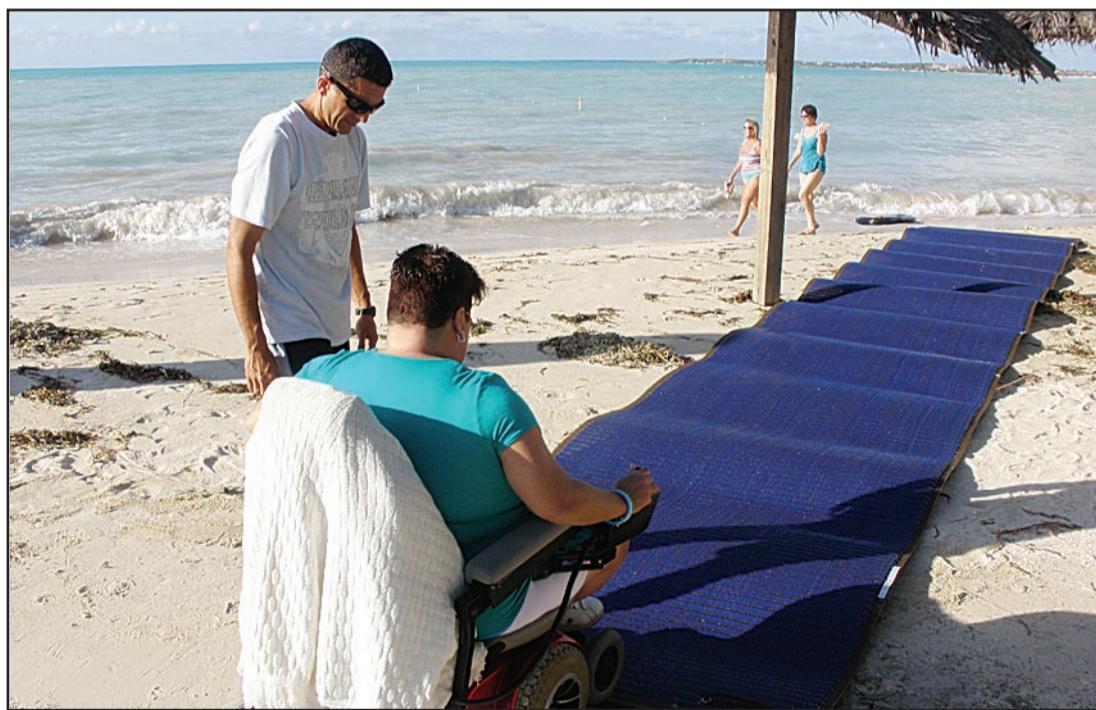
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Roll-A-Ramp

super resistance plastic it is highly recommended for hotels and persons who want to go with a wheelchair on sand. The mat can be bought or leased for a long or short term.

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float persons up to 300lbs. The Mobi-Chair provides a one-of-a-kind experience for those individuals with disabilities who have never before been able to go into the water. The Mobi-Chair is also convenient as it can be assembled or disassembled within two minutes and can fit quite easily into the back of an SUV or large trunk.

All these products are available at Adapted Happy Wheels, via e-mail adapted-happywheels@hotmail.com or on Face book.

Sci-Tech

3G Speed Vs. Edge

If you own a smartphone or have seen somebody use one recently, you know they have full Internet capability. Today's phones are fully integrated into the World Wide Web, allowing you to browse, email and chat. Not only can they connect via wireless access points, they can communicate with cell towers to access the Internet. While this is slower than Wi-Fi and high-speed Internet, it's available everywhere you get a phone signal. This technology, available through most major cell phone providers, is known as enhanced data for global evolution (EDGE) and 3G.

Understanding 3G

Third generation (3G) is simply a continuation of the EDGE cellular data standards. It allows for higher transmission speeds (up to 2.4 Mbps) and more advanced network protocols. Most cell phone carriers offer 3G as their standard data service over EDGE, as it is faster and more reliable. It is more expensive, however, and requires a greater signal strength to operate than EDGE.

How is 3G Better?

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- Web and WAP browsing at higher speeds;
- IPTV (TV through the Internet) support.

Understanding EDGE
EDGE is used with GSM phone technology, the most commonly used cellular technology in the world. EDGE is an improvement on the ultra-slow GPRS data networks, and is considered a 3G technology, although it is less sophisticated. It was first deployed on Cingular's GSM network in 2003. Before the



Japanese employees from the Toyota Motor Corporation demonstrate the Personal Mobility winglet "i-REAL" vehicle at the "Japan Experience -- Ideas Into Reality" on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit meeting in Yokohama recently. As it hosts an Asia-Pacific summit, Japan is showing off robots, green cars and space probes to prove its high-tech credentials despite slow growth and threats to crucial rare earth supplies. Pictured below: A delegate checks out a display through 3D glasses. (AFP PHOTO)

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Scientist: Ozone depletion could be damaging whales' skin



PARIS (AFP) - A closely-studied community of whales, including the threatened blue whale, showed worrying signs of sunburn, possibly because of ozone depletion in the atmosphere, biologists reported this past week.

Whales come to the surface to breath, socialise and feed their young, which means the skin on their backs is exposed to the full force of the Sun, sometimes for hours.

Scientists from the Zoological Society and University of London and Mexico's Inter-disciplinary Centre of Marine Sciences studied around 150 blue whales, fin whales and sperm whales in Mexico's Gulf of California between January and June in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

They took high-definition photographs and took skin samples using a stainless steel dart that were then examined under a microscope.

They found widespread

signs of blister-type lesions similar to symptoms of sunburn among humans. These signs worsened over time, as would be expected with higher exposure to ultra-violet.

Worst affected were the whales that spent the most time in the Sun, and also blue whales which have paler skins compared with other species.

Ultra-violet levels in the Gulf of Mexico fluctuate between high and extremely high levels throughout the year.

"The increase in skin damage seen in blue whales is a matter of concern, but at this stage it is not clear what is causing this increase," said Laura Martinez-Levasseur of the Zoological Society of London.

"A likely candidate is rising UVR (ultra-violet radiation) as a result of either ozone depletion or a change in the level of cloud cover."

The impact of the lesions on the whales' health was not

part of the research.

Ultra-violet light can cause potentially cancer-causing DNA damage to skin at high doses. It is filtered by clouds and also by the fine layer of ozone, a molecule of oxygen, in the stratosphere.

Ozone, though, has been badly attacked by chlorine-based chemicals that are now being phased out under the 1987 Montreal Protocol.

The depletion is global but worse in lower latitudes, as evidenced by the famous "ozone hole" that appears seasonally over Antarctica.

On September 16, a panel of 300 scientists, issuing a four yearly assessment under the UN banner, said the ozone layer would be restored to 1980 levels in 2045 to 2060, "slightly earlier" than expected.

Blue whales, the world's biggest mammals, can measure up to 30 metres (100 feet) long and weigh upwards of 180 tonnes.

Health & Living

Study: men fake orgasm, too

Women aren't the only ones who feign pleasure in bed, according to a new study. Men fake orgasm, too.

In a study of more than 200 college students, 25 percent of men and half of the women reported that they'd acted out an orgasm during sexual activity. The biggest motivation to fake it? Wanting sex to end without the awkwardness of hurting their partner's feelings.

The research is published in the November issue of the *Journal of Sex Research*.

Acting out orgasms

Studies have consistently shown that between half and two-thirds of women have faked orgasm at some point. But because it's tougher for men to fake ejaculation than it is for women to fake a few moans, few researchers had looked at men's rates of artificial orgasm.

The new study, carried out



by psychologists at the University of Kansas, asked 180 college-age men and 101 college-age women questions about their sexual histories. Each participant was asked whether they had ever pretended to have an orgasm. To catch those who might be ashamed to admit their deceit, the participants were also asked whether they'd "done something similar" to pretending to orgasm.

Almost 100 percent of those surveyed had experienced some sort of partnered sexual stimulation, whether manual or oral. Just under 70 percent of the women and 85 percent of the men reported penile-vaginal intercourse.

Intercourse turned out to be a major predictor of whether someone had faked it. About 10 percent of men and 19 percent of women who'd had sexual encounters but not intercourse had faked orgasms, compared with 28 percent of men and 67 percent of women who'd had penile-vaginal intercourse. Pretenders tended to be more sexually experienced.

Penile-vaginal intercourse was also the most likely type

of sex to trigger orgasmic acting. Of those who specified the type of sex during which they faked an orgasm, 86 percent of men and 82 percent of women reported intercourse.

The reason may be that people expect orgasm during intercourse, the authors wrote. Several men in the study reported faking an orgasm because they had no other way to end a sexual encounter without

awkwardness.

Why fake?

For men, the most common reasons for faking it were that orgasm was unlikely or taking too long and that they wanted sex to end. Four-fifths of women reported they faked it to avoid negative consequences, like hurting their partner's feelings. Half of men reported the same motivation.

"When sex is a performance, and when sex has performance goals - erection, intercourse, orgasms - it's problematic," Ellison, who was not involved in the research, told *LiveScience*. Ellison argues that sexual success should be redefined as anything that makes you feel good about yourself, good about your partner and as something that enhances your relationship.

"If you change the goal of sex to creating mutual pleasure and finding all the different ways to create pleasure... you'll learn a lot more about sexual responsiveness," she said. "Sex will be a whole different experience."

Wandering minds make people unhappy: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Maybe you should listen to that yoga teacher who counsels you to stay in the moment.

A US study suggests that people spend about half of their time thinking about being somewhere else, or doing something other than what they are doing, and this perpetual act of mind-wandering makes them unhappy.

"A human mind is a wandering mind, and a wandering mind is an unhappy mind," wrote psychologists Matthew Killingsworth and Daniel Gilbert of Harvard University in the journal *Science*.

"The ability to think about what is not happening is a cognitive achievement that

comes at an emotional cost."

The study showed, people's minds were wandering 46.9 percent of the time.

Subjects reported being happiest while having sex, exercising or having a conversation. They reported being least happy while using a home computer, resting or working.

By examining the mind-wandering responses, researchers found that "only 4.6 percent of a person's happiness in a given moment was attributable to the specific activity he or she was doing, whereas a person's mind-wandering status accounted for about 10.8 percent of his or her happiness."



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The Chhath Festival



Indian Hindu devotees prostrate themselves as they offer prayers during The Chhath Festival in Siliguri on November 12, 2010. The Chhath festival, also known as Surya Pooja (worshipping of the sun) is observed in various parts of India, where homage is paid to the sun and water gods. During Chhath festival devotees undergo a fast and offer water and milk to the Sun God at dawn and dusk on the banks of rivers or small ponds and pray for the longevity and health of their spouse. (AFP PHOTO)

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Author Rian Visser visits schools



which was held in the school library. The children were all ears and were very happy with her visit. (not to mention that it is always fun to have a break from study)

A little about the author, to begin with she wrote about 50 children books in the last 12 years. She began her writing career when her children were at a young age. her first stories were about

her children's mischief and at the same time she was telling them about the stories, letting them participate in the writing of the story as to keep close to a child's fantasy. She writes for age 2 till 14 years and makes most of the times her own lay-outs.

This year the Book Festival for Children is giving the attention to the illustration of the book and that is why the National Library of Aruba has invited a variety of children book illustrators to participate at the festival, both local as Antilles and Holland.

Rian Visser

During this week we can see a variety of writers visiting our primary schools. Rian Visser is one of them, this morning she held a presentation at the Colegio Sta. Theresita with the 4th grade children. She told them stories, a little about herself, how to write, illustrate and publish a children's book.

After that Rian gave a presentation for the attending students of the IPA and as last she gave the same presentation to the 4th graders of the St. Michael School in Brasil,



The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucum- ber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban res- taurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Grandma's stoba with classic rice and beans and homemade potato beet salad

test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

DFF takes over the Red Parrot for another great celebration in Aruba



All of Dee's Friends and Family, birthday and anniversary celebrants in front row

"What is DFF?" you may ask, and how did they "take over" the Red Parrot? - what is the Red Parrot anyway? Red Par-

rot is the famous gourmet continental restaurant of the Divi Beach Resort, and when you bring a group of 27 to almost

any restaurant on Aruba, you will pretty well take over the place.

The day was Thursday, November 11, and the "DFF" stands for Dee's Family & Friends. The Dee in question is Dee George, a former travel agent from New Jersey who so fell in love with Aruba when she first discovered it on her honeymoon 30 years, she has gathered a group together every other year since to enjoy some quality time on her "One Favorite Island."

Many who rate as friends were clients who became as dedicated to Aruba as Dee and always look forward to their bi-annual trip the island. Dee also became a dedicated fan of the Divi Beach Resort during that first visit, and her family and BFF's share her delight with the resort.

Inevitably, with such a large group, there are special occasions to be celebrated during their stay, and their venue of choice for this grand fete is the Red Parrot restaurant, which offers them a stunning view of the sunset with their dinner. This year, F & F Mark, Donna, Ruth, Kay, Claudia, Wanda, Valerie are all celebrating their birthdays, and Jay, a steady regular, hit the big 5-0. Wanda's celebration is twice as nice as she and husband Gary also mark their anniversary



Dee with birthday boy Mark and Wanda, with Mom Ruth

during their stay.

"The Divi people have always treated my group wonderfully, and we have never felt a desire to stay anywhere else," revealed Dee. "This year, they decorated our space in the breakfast room and made every effort to make our birthday boys and girls feel special."

Three birthday cakes and a chorus of "Happy Birthday" in three languages from the accommodating staff of the Red Parrot were a fine finish to DFF's special celebratory din-



Dee with birthday girls Valerie Horner

ner. This year was another memorable marking of milestones for the dedicated group of Aruba lovers.

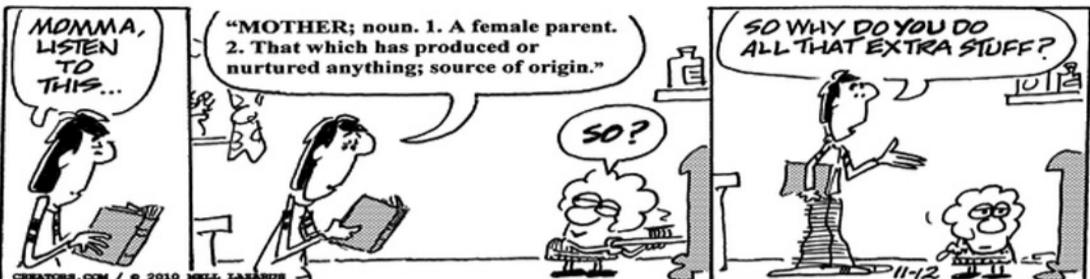
by Rosalie Klein

CO MICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES



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ACROSS

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TOKYO, Japan -- Toyota Motors President Akio Toyoda (L) and Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk drive a Tesla Roadstar from Japan's Tesla headquarter showroom (background) to the Lexus showroom in Tokyo. Toyota will display "RAV4 EV" concept-a compact SUV with a Tesla electric powertrain in upcoming Los Angeles Auto Show November 17 to 28 after the two companies announced their "strategic partnership" on May 2010. (AFP PHOTO)



US coffee chain Starbucks Corp. said it is developing its own coffee farm in southwestern China in order to secure a supply of quality beans in the company's second-most important market. (AFP PHOTO)



NEW YORK CITY -- If you are thinking of buying new jeans, shirts, children's clothes or even socks, move fast -- because prices may soon rise. Squeezed by increased demand from China and a shortage in global supply, cotton prices have doubled over the past 12 months. (AFP PHOTO)

Metal prices hammer record highs

LONDON, England (AFP) - Copper and tin prices nailed historic highs this week, and gold smashed above 1,400 dollars for the first time in history in a sustained record-breaking run fuelled by hopes of economic recovery.

Crude oil meanwhile rocketed to two-year peaks while soft or agricultural commodities also enjoyed an impressive performance.

"The uptrend in commodity prices continued for much of this week, with prices moving to an elevated trading range," said analyst Sudakshina Unnikrishnan at Barclays Capital in London.

"This week has seen crude oil prices at two-year highs, copper and tin at all-time highs and agricultural markets hitting multi-year and decade highs.

"While the broader economic environment has turned more supportive and sentiment more positive, by the end of the week, concerns of further interest rate hikes in China have weighed on prices."

Many raw materials have also won strong support in recent days from the weak dollar, following the US Federal Reserve's decision last week to launch a second wave of asset-buying or quantitative easing, known as QE2.

A weak greenback makes it cheaper for investors holding other currencies to buy dollar-denominated commodities such as copper.

However, the dollar clawed back ground yesterday as investors showed alarm about indebted eurozone countries despite reassurances from top EU leaders at the G20 meeting in Seoul, South Korea.

BASE METALS: Copper soared to a record peak of 8,966 dollars a ton -- beating the previous high of 8,940 dollars seen in July 2008 -- on supportive Chinese economic data, tight global supplies and strikes in key producer Chile.

In addition, tin set an all-time high at 27,500 dollars per ton, before both industrial metals ran into profit-taking.

"Prices are being supported by firm Asian markets and robust economic data from China (industrial production,

fixed assets investments) which were largely in line with expectations and indicate continued high activity in China," said Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch.

Copper, which is used in plumbing, heating, electrical and telecommunications wiring, has rocketed by 50 percent since June.

"A strike at the Collahuasi mine in Chile has highlighted the fragility of the supply-side and has stoked concerns of a looming market deficit at a time of falling inventories," said analyst Robin Bhar at Credit Agricole CIB.

Collahuasi, in northern Chile, is the third biggest copper mine in the world and produces an estimated three percent of global supplies.

Investors also flocked to copper as they sought to safeguard their cash amid news of a sharp spike in Chinese inflation.

"The market had already been on a charge with the raft of bullish developments, such as QE2, but in the last couple of days, China has been the driving factor," said head dealer Rajesh Patel at trading firm Spread Co.

"Chinese CPI data jumped to two-year highs this week, sending copper prices higher and sparked a short-covering rally which added fuel to the fire."

By late yesterday on the London Metal Exchange, copper for delivery in three months eased to 8,695 dollars a ton from 8,730 dollars a week earlier.

Three-month aluminium slipped to 2,445 dollars a ton from 2,466 dollars.

Three-month lead rose to 2,545 dollars a ton from 2,525 dollars.

Three-month tin pulled back to 26,450 dollars a ton from 26,600 dollars from a week earlier.

Three-month zinc fell to 2,447 dollars a ton from 2,529 dollars.

Three-month nickel slid to 23,341 dollars a tonne from 24,690 dollars.

PRECIOUS METALS: Gold metal soared to a fresh record of 1,424.60 dollars per ounce on the London Bullion

Market, after hurtling past the 1,400 barrier, boosted by its safe-haven status and the weak dollar.

In the wake of gold, sister metal silver flew to a new 30-year peak at 29.36 dollars an ounce and palladium chalked up a nine-year high.

"Renewed worries over sovereign debt in peripheral euro-zone economies, Chinese inflationary concerns and continued buying from Asian banks have conspired to push gold prices to fresh record highs and silver prices to new 30-year highs this week," said Deutsche Bank analyst Xiao Fu.

Gold is viewed as a traditional safe-haven asset in times of economic uncertainty, and as a safe store of value amid rising inflation.

By late yesterday on the London Bullion Market, gold surged to 1,388.50 dollars an ounce at the late fixing, from 1,346.77 dollars a week earlier.

Silver advanced to 26.79 dollars an ounce from 23.96 dollars.

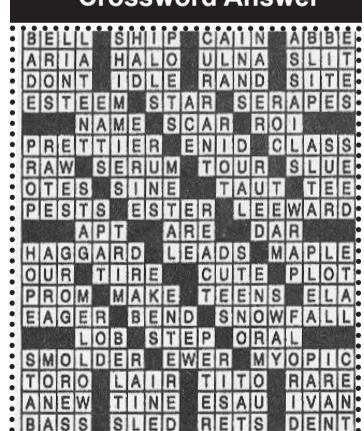
On the London Platinum and Palladium Market, platinum rallied to 1,712 dollars an ounce from 1,700 dollars.

Palladium increased to 703 dollars an ounce from 640 dollars.

OIL: Crude oil prices neared 90 dollars for the first time in more than two years, stoked by expectations of increased demand amid tight supplies.

But they pulled back yesterday when traders took their cue from a stronger dollar and speculation over a Chinese interest rate rise which could curb consumption.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Get ready to experience an adrenaline rush like no other
Kite Surfing is an absolute thrill and the latest in extreme sports...



Kite surfing or kiteboarding is a surface water sport that uses the wind to pull a rider through the water on a small surfboard or a kiteboard (similar to a wakeboard). Generally kiteboarding refers to a style of riding known as freestyle or wake-style, whereas kitesurfing is more "wave-riding" oriented. These two styles usually require different boards and specific performance kites.

A kitesurfer or kiteboarder uses a board with or without foot-straps or bindings, combined with the power of a large controllable kite to propel the rider and the board across the water. In 2006, the number of kitesurfers has been estimated at around 150,000 to 210,000, with 114,465 inflatable kites sold that same year.

The sport is becoming safer due to innovations in kite design, safety release systems, and instructions. Riding styles have evolved to suit riders and conditions, such as wakestyle, waveriding, freestyle, freeride, jumping, and cruising.

Kitesurfing started on the island in 1998. Armando Wester, a professional windsurfer and certified instructor, and his buddies were the first ones to introduce Kitesurfing to the island of Aruba.

Since then, they have gotten more than 5,000 visitors and locals hooked on this new adrenaline rush sport.

Their years of experience, the trade winds on the island, the beautiful Caribbean Sea and the latest equipment make it an ideal and safe place for anyone to learn to kite. Kitesurfing is a hybrid of wakeboarding, hand-gliding and windsurfing for a radical new approach of kite power.

Anyone between the ages of 8 and 77 can enjoy this sport.

So don't hesitate to call Armando or visit him at the Fisherman's huts, just north of the Aruba Marriott Resort, and see for yourself what an exhilarating rush this sport really is.

Lessons start daily at 9 a.m., 12 noon or 3 p.m.



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Sunday: NFL tail-gate BBQ from 10:30 a.m.
Buster's Garage in South Beach Center: One place for the whole family family

Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellowpages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it -but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during play-offs and championships, they regularly carry all UFC fights



& WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and residents mix and mingle; Monday

to Thursday they close at 2:00 am., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

by Rosalie Klein

Brazil clown submits to literacy test for Congress seat

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AFP) – A television clown elected to Brazil's congress submitted to a literacy test Thursday to try to disprove critics who claimed he could neither read nor write and therefore should be disqualified from office.

Francisco Oliveira, a 45-year-old comic better known by his stage name Tiririca, was ordered by a judge to undergo the test in Sao Paulo under a provision in Brazil's constitution that requires lawmakers to be literate.

Walter de Almeida Guil-



herme, head of Sao Paulo's Regional Electoral Tribunal, confirmed to reporters that Oliveira was given one dictation and two reading exams.

He added that a judge would now determine whether

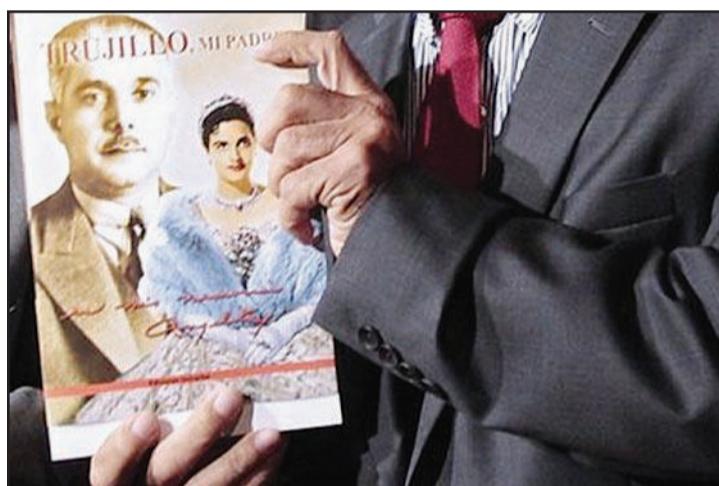
Oliveira's performance in the test established he was literate.

Oliveira was elected as a Sao Paulo federal representative in October 3 legislative polls with 1.3 million ballots -- the most of any of the candidates.

He ran on a humorous television campaign dressed as a clown with a blond wig and colorful costume, and spouting riffs like "What does a federal deputy do?"

I have no idea -- but vote for me and I'll let you know."

Book defending Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo banned



SANTO DOMINGO, The Dominican Republic (AFP) — A judge yesterday banned the sale of a hagiography of Rafael Trujillo — the strongman who ran the Dominican Republic for 30 years — written by the dictator's daughter.

"Trujillo, My Father" is written by Trujillo's youngest daughter Maria de los Angeles Trujillo, born in Paris in 1939.

The book presents a warm and humane portrait of Rafael Trujillo, the man nicknamed "The Boss" who ruled the Dominican Republic with an iron fist from 1930 until he was murdered in 1961.

Judge Katia Gomez issued a ruling "forbidding any activity or initiative aimed at rehabilitating the Trujillo era," the newspaper Listin Diario reported on its online edition.

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Gomez said that she would fine the Luna bookstore — the only store in the country selling the book — for each day it refuses to comply.

The author, best known by her nickname Angelita, dismisses in her book the official version of the murder of the three Mirabal sisters — one of the most high-profile crimes attributed to Trujillo — as a "conspiracy."

The upper-class sisters were regime opponents murdered in 1960 after visiting two of their husbands who were in jail for plotting against Trujillo.

For many, their deaths marked the beginning of Trujillo's downfall.

The judge's ruling also denies permission to the Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina Foundation, a Florida-based group, to open a branch in the Dominican Republic.

The brutality of Trujillo's regime was the main theme in "The Feast of the Goat," the 2000 novel by Peruvian Nobel award winner Mario Vargas Llosa.

A 2001 Hollywood movie starring Salma Hayek was made about the Mirabal sisters, "In the Time of the Butterflies."

World's largest cruise ship makes US debut



MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Allure of the Seas, the world's largest cruise ship along with its twin Oasis of the Seas, made its US debut Thursday with operator Royal Caribbean showing off innovations including the first Starbucks coffee house at sea.

Like its 11-month-old twin Oasis, Allure soars 65 meters (213 feet) above the waterline, stretches 360 meters (1,181 feet) from bow to stern and fully loaded weighs 225,282 tons.

It was built by South Korea's STX Finland Cruise shipyards in Finland at a cost of one billion dollars. The Allure made its US debut after a 13-day transatlantic journey from Turku, Finland, to Florida.

"We are very proud of these two ships that are the largest cruise ships in the world. They are twins, sharing exactly the same size and design," Royal Caribbean

marketing director Rebecca Barba told AFP.

The Allure's 16 decks are divided into seven "neighborhoods," including a sprawling green area with fully grown trees reproducing New York's Central Park; a Coney Island-style Boardwalk; and numerous amenities offering rock walls, ice skating rinks and swimming pools with surf simulators.

Its 26 dining options include the first Starbucks at sea, the company said.

"It's like being on seven different ships at once, and it's so big you at times forget you're at sea," said Barba.

Despite the global economic downturn, Royal Caribbean decided to build the twin giant cruise ships and feels certain it can get the customers to fill them.

"We're optimistic because while we know we're going through some hard times, we offer a luxury cruise at relatively affordable prices, because everything is included," Barba said.

The cheapest cruise package Allure has to offer is a week-long voyage for 899 dollars per person, although a family of four would pay about 25 percent less per individual. The most expensive package includes the Royal Loft Suite for up to six people, at 15,609 dollars per person per week.

Allure of the Seas' inaugural seven-night Western Caribbean itinerary will depart on December 5.

The Allure arrived at its home port of Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, 48 kilometers (30 miles) north of Miami, where it was welcomed by a flotilla of ships.

Miami's complementary port facility, Fort Lauderdale, houses the largest cruise ship port in the world that in 2008 welcomed some four million customers.

Ground Zero hero donates Rockefeller Center Christmas tree

MAHOPAC — A huge spruce growing in the front yard of Peter and Stephanie Acton is ready for the bright lights of the big city as the 2010 Rockefeller Center Tree.

Beaming with pride, Peter Acton and his wife, Stephanie, watched alongside 50 onlookers as their 74-foot-tall Norway spruce was cut down in the backyard of their Mahopac, NY home, about 50 miles from Manhattan.

With hundreds watching along Bullet Hole Road, the 74-foot evergreen, held by a crane, was cut to the cheers of kids and the applause of adults.

The massive Norway spruce, which weighs 12 tons and has a 40-foot diameter, will be lit in Rockefeller Center on Nov. 30.

The Rockefeller Tree has become an icon of the holiday season and is a destination in December for tourists and locals alike.

Photo at right shows York City firefighter Peter Acton and his wife Stephanie standing with their children Seamus, 11, and Fiona, 7, near their 74-foot tall Norway Spruce.



Buffalo seek elusive win at Lions' expense



BUFFALO, New York (AFP) – The Buffalo Bills will on Sunday try again for their first victory of the NFL season, hoping to benefit from the notorious road woes of the Detroit Lions.

The Lions could break their own record for the longest road losing streak in league history with a 25th straight away defeat, something that surely hasn't escaped the desperate Bills' notice.

"I'm sure with us not winning on the road in a while, they're probably looking at this as, 'Hey, this is where we can get our first win of the year,'" said Lions guard Stephen Peterman. "So it's going to be a big task for us."

Buffalo are 0-8 -- halfway to the Lions' dismal 0-16 season of 2008 -- a benchmark of NFL futility.

No one knows better than the Lions how the Bills are feeling right now.

"They remind me of how we were the year we were 0-16," Peterman said. "They're not quitting. You don't look on film and say, 'Hey, these guys are bad.'

"You look on film and say, 'Man, they were a couple points here, a couple points there from winning some games.'"

Certainly the Bills have played some close games, losing each of their last three by three points. Even so, they remain the only team without a victory this season.

"It's tough. We're fighting," receiver Steve Johnson said after Buffalo's three-

point overtime loss to Chicago on Sunday. "You could see it out there."

"I don't know what to say. It's just not happening in the end."

At the other end of the NFL spectrum, Tom Brady and New England will visit Pittsburgh in a clash of the most dominant clubs of the past decade.

The Patriots have won three Super Bowl titles and the Steelers two since the 2001 season, and both are current contenders.

The Patriots didn't play much like it last week in an upset loss at Cleveland, turning the ball over three times and holding the ball for less than 22 minutes.

After enduring the wrath of coach Bill Belichick they'll no doubt be keen to redress their mistakes.

"I think we took quite a beating from our coach here the last couple days," Brady said. "Well deserved and we need to start playing better."

Brady and the Patriots have dropped consecutive games just twice in the past eight seasons.

After falling to the New York Jets in the second week of this season they reeled off five straight victories.

The Steelers have given up the fewest points per game in the league at 15.4 and are easily the NFL's best team against the run with 58.3 yards allowed per game.

The week's action kicked off on Thursday night as Atlanta beat Baltimore 26-21.

Roddy White pulled in a

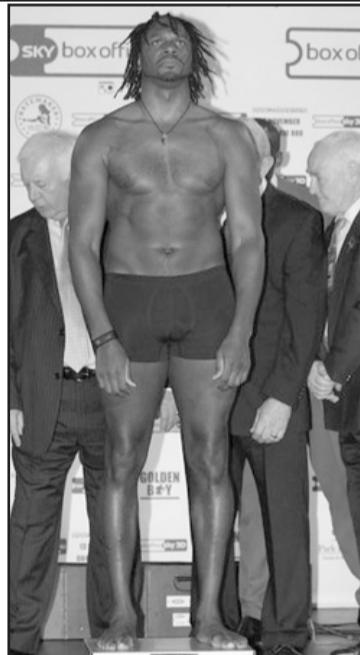
33-yard touchdown pass from Matt Ryan with 20 seconds left to lift the Falcons, who had let slip a 13-point lead but managed to rally for the victory.

Other games on Sunday are the New York Jets at Cleveland, Tennessee at Miami, Cincinnati at Indianapolis, Houston at Jacksonville, Dallas at the New York Giants, St. Louis at San Francisco, Seattle at Arizona, Kansas City at Denver, Minnesota at Chicago, and Carolina at Tampa Bay.

On Monday, Washington host Philadelphia. Redskins quarterback Donovan McNabb, formerly of the Eagles, will try to recover respect and momentum after he was controversially benched by coach Mike Shanahan in an October 31 loss at Detroit.

The Redskins had a week off after that defeat to mull over their confused quarterback situation. The Eagles, meanwhile, have plenty of confidence in Michael Vick, who leads the NFL in passing efficiency and has thrown for 1,017 yards, seven touchdowns and no interceptions.

Harrison's weighty advantage for Haye fight



Haye (L) Harrison (R)

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Audley Harrison will carry a huge weight advantage into his WBA heavyweight showdown, against David Haye after tipping the scales more than 19 kilos heavier than his rival here Friday.

Much-maligned Sydney Olympics gold medallist Harrison tipped the scales at a whopping 18 stone and 1.5lbs (115 kilograms), while Haye came in at a relatively lightweight 15 stone 0.5 lbs (95.5 kilos).

France 'keeper says players don't deserve bonuses



LYON (AFP) - Lyon goalkeeper Hugo Lloris said Friday that none of France's World Cup squad deserved to be paid World Cup bonuses, following a catastrophic campaign that was marked by a players' strike and an early exit from South Africa.

The issue of bonuses has been high on the French football federation's agenda this week.

Former France captain Patrice Evra is reported to have said that all bonuses should be collected and then donated to charity, a claim

that was contested by some players -- including Alou Diarra, who said in L'Equipe that he and other players wanted to be paid the money so they could then share out or donate the money as they wished.

Lloris, who was France's goalkeeper for Les Bleus' short, first round spell in South Africa, believes the players should not even see the estimated four million euros in bonuses from the World Cup.

"For me it's clear. We don't deserve a thing as regards World Cup bonuses, given our performances," Lloris said here Friday.

"The money lying there should be donated to charities or associations, whether it's done so by the players or by the federation."

Lloris said a proposition had been made to the French squad to forego all bonuses from 2009-2010.

But he said that was out of the question: "... for us, it's only a question of giving up the bonuses from the World Cup, not those due from the qualifiers.

"Everyone (in the squad) is agreed on that principle."

He added: "Representing your country on the international stage is always something to be proud of. All of the players know that we failed, and that it's left us with a negative image.

"None of us want to accept these bonuses, and we all want to donate the money to charity. I think there's been a misunderstanding. It's a pity because it's something we can do without right now."

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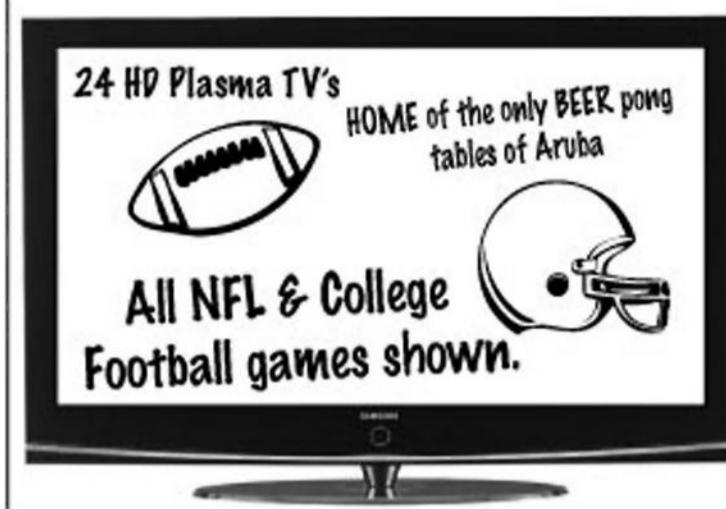
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Haye's weight is the lightest he has ever been as a heavyweight and reflects the gruelling programme he has followed in training camp.

Harrison, 39, has vowed to end Haye's reign at Manchester's MEN Arena on Saturday.

Haye is only fighting Harrison after failing to come to terms to box either of the Ukrainian Klitschko brothers, Vladimir and Vitali, who hold the other versions of the world title.



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Pacquiao hopes to extend legacy, streak against Margarito

DALLAS (AFP) - Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao hopes to extend his legacy as he goes for his eighth belt in as many weight classes when he and Antonio Margarito clash in a world title fight tonight.

Pacquiao, who will step into the ring Saturday against the biggest man he has ever fought, is hoping his second fight at Cowboys Stadium goes better than the first.

Pacquiao's first fight in Dallas in front of a crowd of over 50,000 eight months ago turned out to be a let-down because Joshua Clottey went into a defensive shell, refusing to throw any punches.

Pacquiao says that won't happen this time when he and Mexico's Margarito battle for the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) super welterweight title.

The Filipino superstar will be going for his eighth title in his eighth different weight class and his 12th consecutive victory since losing to Erik Morales in March 2005.

"For sure there will be a lot of boxing because of his (Margarito's) style," Pacquiao said. "That's what I want."

"Margarito can give a good fight because he has an aggressive style and he throws a lot of punches. I believe it will be a great fight."

Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach at one time described their training camp as the worst ever but with the fight now just days away, Pacquiao says there are no more distractions and he is completely focused.

"There is no problem in



our training camp," Pacquiao said. "The first two weeks we had a problem because I was trying to gain weight but the problem is I can't move when I am that heavy. So I decided to maintain 148 pounds."

The super welterweight title is usually challenged for at 154 pounds but the two fighters have mutually agreed to contest the title at a "catch weight" of 150 pounds.

Pacquiao, a southpaw, expects to enter the ring at 148

pounds and while the much bigger Margarito could come in as much as 10 to 12 pounds heavier on the night of the fight. Margarito already has a four-inch height advantage and a six-inch reach advantage.

Pacquiao's last fight was a 12-round decision over Clottey for the WBO 147-pound title. Pacquiao expects to be just slightly heavier against Margarito than he was for Clottey, whose goal

was simply to survive all 12 rounds without getting knocked out.

"I try to gain weight for this fight but I look terrible," Pacquiao said. "I can't move at that weight and my speed is not there. My regular training weight is 142 pounds. I tried to gain weight to 147, 150 and 154 to get big but my speed is gone."

Pacquiao's game plan will be to capitalize on his quickness around the ring and superior hand speed.

He and Roach train for each fight by getting sparring partners who model their opponent's style. But Pacquiao's genius is in figuring out his opponent's weaknesses in the first few rounds then using that to break down their defence before going for the knockout.

"Margarito is a volume puncher," said Roach. "As long as you stand in front of him he will throw six- and eight-punch combinations. He is not like Clottey at all. He will fight. This will not be a Clottey rerun because (Margarito) will try to win."

Margarito will likely try to use his reach advantage to tire Pacquiao out with the jab and then go for the kill with a big right hand.

"The time is here and there are no excuses," Margarito says. "There will be a new Mexican champion on the 13th."

Roach says they know what Margarito's weaknesses are.

"I studied Margarito's fights," he says. "He is not that good. He punches like a girl."

Margarito still carries the

stigma of the hand-wrap scandal that netted him a one year suspension ban from boxing and that was before he was labelled a pariah this week for the way he and his camp members mocked Roach, who suffers from Parkinson's Disease.

He will step into the ring for the first time in the USA since he was caught using illegal gloves against Shane Mosely and he hopes to atone for his sins with a win over Pacquiao.

"Antonio is ready," said manager Sergio Diaz. "He has been taking a lot of stones being thrown by everyone and everywhere."

Promoter Bob Arum said he expects the crowd to exceed the 51,000 that witnessed Pacquiao's last fight at Cowboys Stadium and sell over one million pay-per-view purchases in 137 countries.

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Garcia defies wind to stake claim for Masters

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Sergio Garcia relished playing in the blustery wind to put himself in contention for the Australian Masters at Victoria Golf Club on Friday.

The Spanish former world number two produced the day's best round of six-under 65 to be four-under 138 and six shots off the lead held by Australian Adam Bland heading into the weekend rounds of the 1.5 million US dollar tournament.

Garcia, 30, whose ranking has crashed to 70 and is without a tournament win since 2008, highlighted his round with a superb putt off the green

for birdie at the par-four third, his 12th hole of the round.

"In a way it kind of sums up my golf, some rounds are spectacular and some rounds are not that great," he said.

"I was hoping to shoot two or three under and make sure that I could be here for the weekend, but I felt good on the driving range and on the putting green and I was gaining in confidence through the round."

"It was 65 but it wasn't the lowest I could have shot today because I hit so many good shots and I only missed one green."

Slick Federer ends Paris Masters hoodoo

PARIS (AFP) - Roger Federer broke his ATP Paris Masters hoodoo by beating Austrian 11th seed Jurgen Melzer 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) here on Friday to reach the semi-finals at the Bercy arena for the first time in his career.

Federer served and returned with breath-taking efficiency in the first set, breaking Melzer twice in succession to go 5-0 up inside 15 minutes and securing a one-set lead with a pair of thumping aces.

The top seed, chasing a third straight title after successes in Stockholm and Basel, encountered stiffer resistance in a tight second set.

"I served well the whole match, but in the second set he was able to play a bit more solidly overall and serve a bit better," said Federer.

"I think I played a perfect first set, but after that I knew it was going to be closer because the first set wasn't really reality."

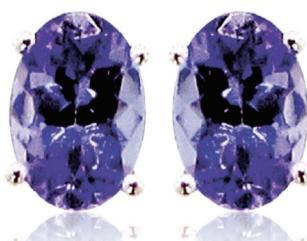
Federer will contest a place in the final with either British third seed Andy Murray or last year's beaten finalist Gael Monfils.

Earlier, two-time French Open finalist Robin Soderling eased into the semi-finals with a 7-5, 6-4 defeat of American eighth seed Andy Roddick.

The Swedish fourth seed, who will compete alongside Roddick at the year-end ATP World Tour Finals in London later this month, now faces unseeded Frenchman Michael Llodra, who upset Russian 10th seed Nikolay Davydenko 7-5, 6-1.

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